

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

took to bum itself out. Even after Ham Nghi was captured, of *campaigning* were needed to force the country to

the new government: even after De Courcy's recall the whole country remained as troubled as ever.

Public opinion in France was alternately enraged and perplexed by the torn of events in Indo-CMna, Smaller and smaller majorities voted for *the* war: once the colony was saved by a slim majority of votes. The situation called for a radical solution. In January 1886, it waft when Paul Bert was named Resident General of Annam-Toakin. Bert's friendship for Gambetta, his distinction as a scientist, Ms anti-clericalism were of long standing, but lie had developed an interest in colonial expansion. Paris received of Ms nomination with mixed surprise and dismay. His motives generally suspect, as voiced fay one anonymous letter he received:

^{Mf&} *ami Paul ^ awas-tu Mmtat ton petit miUton?"*

Despite tMs discouraging send-off, Bert's achievements were remark- for so short a tenure of office. His principal reform

was a return to the in Annam, by governing through the Scholars

tfid the prestige and power he partially restored. In

he favoured direct administration. He did not break in this and by transferring the imperial to < tie cf Tonkin, he completed the adminis-

the two Annamite countries, Bert's motive in tfeft was to ait the subsidies given by that

10 tibe in Tonkin. Without tMs support he thought

the automatically collapse. But in his

Ittd a and profitable three-cornered had xeceotfy organized in Tonkin, with

1\$	in	tie Anaamites of the delta and baadife ransomed compliant quite in the traditional manner.
or	But Hey	in tib form of Tonkieese women,
ttd	for	arete and munitions from China.
At the		tint Bftt to the , this 'traffic was steadily
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A*		But tie Issue in Annam-Tonkin
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Emperor.	«** ri»	for'tte'd^throi^i
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